

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a positive active material for rechargeable lithium batteries, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a powder from a source material, the source material being selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_x\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{2-z}\text{F}_z$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{2-z}\text{S}_z$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{4-z}\text{F}_z$ , and  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{4-z}\text{S}_z$ , where  $0 < x < 1.5$ ,  $0.05 \leq y \leq 0.3$ ,  $z \leq 1.0$  and M is selected from the group consisting of Al, Co, Cr, Mg, Fe and La; and

coating the powder with a metallic alkoxide solution to make an alkoxide-coated powder, the metallic alkoxide solution being selected from the group consisting of Mg-Alkoxide and Al-alkoxide; and

heat-treating the alkoxide-coated powder such that the alkoxide-coated powder is changed into an oxide-coated powder.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the alkoxide solution contains 1 to 50 weight percent of the metal.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the heat-treating step is performed at a temperature range of 200 to 1000°C for 1 to 20 hours.

9.-12. (Canceled)